

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1129  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2023  
GAUGE CONVERSION**

**†1129. SHRI RAVI KISHAN:**

**SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether several trains are still running on meter gauge line;**
- (b) if so, the details of the such routes;**
- (c) the reasons not converting these meter gauge lines into broad gauge;**
- (d) the details of the scheme chalked out for gauge conversion and the time by which it is likely to be completed;**
- (e) the names of train routes facing bottleneck of gauge conversion; and**
- (f) the effective steps taken by the Government to remove such bottlenecks?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) to (f) Passenger train services are presently being operated on the MG sectors, namely, Mathura-Vrindavan, Mailani-Bichia, Bahraich-Nepalganj Road, Marwar-Mavli, Mettupalayam-Udagamandalam, Coonoor- Udagamandalam, Veraval-Amreli, Veraval- Delvada, Delvada-Junagadh, Junagadh -Amreli of Indian Railways.**

**The policy for Project Uni-gauge was taken up in the year 1992 to convert selected routes for conversion into broad gauge except those identified as Heritage lines or passing through Wildlife Sanctuaries/ National Parks.**

**As on 01.04.2022 across Indian Railways, 42 Gauge Conversion projects of 5,667 Km length, costing ₹50,250 crore, are in different stages of planning/sanction/execution, out of which 3,488 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹19,235 crore has been incurred upto March, 2022.**

**The completion of any Railway project(s) depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, deposition of cost share by State Government in cost sharing projects, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project(s) site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic conditions etc. and all these factors affect the completion time and cost of the project(s), which is finally worked out at the completion stage. As such, the confirmed time frame for completion of projects cannot be ascertained at this stage. However, Railways is making all the efforts for expeditious completion of projects.**

**Various steps taken by the Government for speedy sanction and implementation of rail projects include (i) setting up of Gati Shakti units (ii) prioritisation of projects (iii) substantial increase in allocation of funds on priority projects (iv) delegation of powers at field level (v) close monitoring of progress of project at various levels, and (vi) regular follow up with State Governments and concerned authorities for expeditious land acquisition, forestry and Wildlife clearances and for resolving other issues pertaining to projects. This has led to substantial increase in rate of commissioning since 2014.**

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